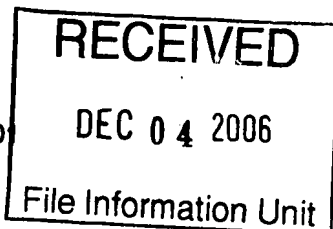


Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

**REQUEST FOR ACCESS TO AN ABANDONED APPLICATION UNDER 37 CFR 1.14**

Bring completed form to:  
File Information Unit  
Crystal Plaza Three, Room 1D01  
2021 South Clark Place  
Arlington, VA  
Telephone: (703) 308-2733



In re Application of

Application Number

Filed

09-903095

7-10-01

Paper No. #9

I hereby request access under 37 CFR 1.14(a)(1)(iv) to the application file record of the above-identified ABANDONED application, which is identified in, or to which a benefit is claimed, in the following document (as shown in the attachment):

United States Patent Application Publication No. \_\_\_\_\_, page, \_\_\_\_\_ line \_\_\_\_\_,

United States Patent Number 6620046, column \_\_\_\_\_, line, \_\_\_\_\_ or

WIPO Pub. No. \_\_\_\_\_, page \_\_\_\_\_, line \_\_\_\_\_.

**Related Information about Access to Pending Applications (37 CFR 1.14):**

Direct access to pending applications is not available to the public (see 37 CFR 1.14(c) if applicant) but copies may be available and may be purchased from the Office of Public Records upon payment of the appropriate fee (37 CFR 1.19(b)), as follows:

For published applications that are still pending, a member of the public may obtain a copy of:

- the file contents;
- the pending application as originally filed; or
- any document in the file of the pending application.

For unpublished applications that are still pending:

- (1) If the benefit of the pending application is claimed under 35 U.S.C. 119(e), 120, 121, or 365 in another application that has: (a) issued as a U.S. patent, or (b) published as a statutory invention registration, a U.S. patent application publication, or an international patent application publication in accordance with PCT Article 21(2), a member of the public may obtain a copy of:
  - the file contents;
  - the pending application as originally filed; or
  - any document in the file of the pending application.
- (2) If the application is incorporated by reference or otherwise identified in a U.S. patent, a statutory invention registration, a U.S. patent application publication, or an international patent application publication in accordance with PCT Article 21(2), a member of the public may obtain a copy of:
  - the pending application as originally filed.

Darlene Jones  
Signature

DARLENE JONES  
Typed or printed name

Registration Number, if applicable

703 418 0330

Telephone Number

12/4/06  
Date

Date

FOR PTO USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	
Approved by:	<u>[Signature]</u>
	DEC 04 (Initials)
Unit:	File Information Unit

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.14. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. BRING TO: File Information Unit, Crystal Plaza Three, Room 1D01, 2021 South Clark Place, Arlington, VA.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.



US006620046B2

(12) **United States Patent**  
Rowe

(10) Patent No.: **US 6,620,046 B2**  
(45) Date of Patent: **Sep. 16, 2003**

*Est. only*

(54) **METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR FUNDING AND AWARDING BONUSES IN A GAMING ENVIRONMENT**

(75) Inventor: **Rick Rowe, Reno, NV (US)**

(73) Assignee: **IGT, Reno, NV (US)**

(\*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **09/965,908**

(22) Filed: **Sep. 27, 2001**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2003/0013513 A1 Jan. 16, 2003

#### Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation-in-part of application No. 09/903,095, filed on Jul. 10, 2001.

(51) Int. Cl.<sup>7</sup> ..... **A63F 9/24**

(52) U.S. Cl. .... **463/25**

(58) Field of Search ..... **463/25, 40, 41, 463/42**

(56) **References Cited**

#### U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

5,292,127 A 3/1994 Kelly et al.  
5,429,361 A 7/1995 Raven et al.  
5,655,961 A 8/1997 Acres et al.  
5,702,304 A 12/1997 Acres et al.  
5,707,285 A 1/1998 Place et al.  
5,741,183 A 4/1998 Acres et al.  
5,752,882 A 5/1998 Acres et al.

5,816,918 A 10/1998 Kelly et al.  
5,820,459 A 10/1998 Acres et al.  
5,836,817 A 11/1998 Acres et al.  
5,876,284 A 3/1999 Acres et al.  
6,007,426 A 12/1999 Kelly et al.  
6,015,344 A 1/2000 Kelly et al.  
6,162,122 A 12/2000 Acres et al.  
6,217,448 B1 4/2001 Olsen  
6,231,445 B1 5/2001 Acres  
6,244,958 B1 6/2001 Acres  
6,254,483 B1 7/2001 Acres  
6,319,125 B1 \* 11/2001 Acres  
6,364,768 B1 \* 4/2002 Acres et al.

*DO NOT NEED*

\* cited by examiner

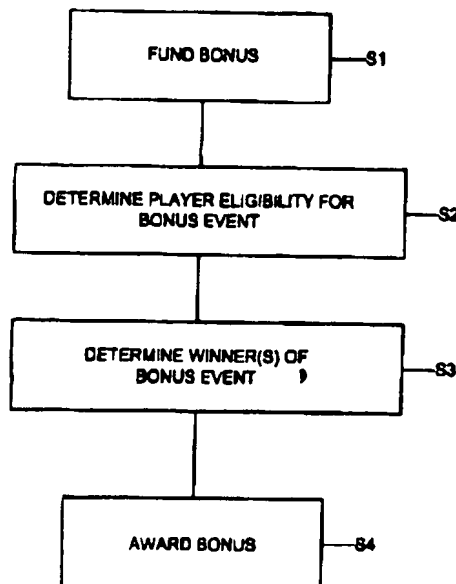
Primary Examiner—Michael O'Neill

(74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Weide & Miller, Ltd.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method and system are provided for awarding bonuses in a gaming environment. The system includes gaming machines associated with a player tracking host and a bonus system host. Each gaming machine has a player tracking device. In accordance with a method, a bonus is funded independently of specific wagers placed at the gaming machines. The bonus system host configures bonus event information which is presented via the player tracking devices of the gaming machines. In the event a player is a bonus event winner, bonus award information is transmitted to the player via the player tracking device. The bonus is awarded based on criteria independent of the outcome of a game played by the player at the gaming machine. The system and method provide for the award of bonuses independent of the configuration of the games the gaming machine presents, player wagers or game outcome.

11 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets



*Please get*

*DO NOT NEED*